(d) Road overbridge at Dwarka does not fall on a National Highway.

Expansion of National Highways in Karnataka under PM Golden Quadrilateral Project

288. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRASPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the National Highways in Karnataka which are taken up for expansion under PM Golden Quadrilateral Project;

(b) how many kilometres has been covered and how many kilometres would be covered by March, 2003; and

(c) the progress of the new highways proposed to pass through Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) Four-laning of Maharashtra Karnataka border-Hubli-Bangalore Section of National Highway-4 and Bangalore to Karnataka/Tamil Nadu border section of National Highway-7, having a total length of 596 km, has been taken up under Golden Quadrilateral Project in Karnataka State.

(b) A length of 69 km has already been four-laned. Contracts for remaining length have already been awarded, which are targeted for substantial completion by December, 2003.

(c) Presently, there is no proposal to declare any new National Highway in the country, including Karnataka.

Hike in freight charges

†289. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that truck-owners have increased the freight charges from 4.5 per cent to 6 per cent due to price hike of diesel in the country in the month of June;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that this hike in freight charges would adversely affect the road transport industry; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) Freight transport in road sector is almost entirely in the private sector and freight hikes are determined by interplay of market forces. This Ministry has no information regarding freight hikes.

Shifting of petrol pumps away from National Highways

290. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :
SHRI ABANI ROY :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the NHAI has asked oil companies to move petrol pumps away from the National Highways to tackle the problem of road accidents;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines and time-frame in this regard;

(c) the oil companies, response thereto;

(d) whether the causes of accidents on National Highways have been assessed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which shifting of petrol pumps from NHs, is going to tackle the problem of road accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) National Highways Authority of India has not asked oil companies to move petrol pumps away from National Highways. However Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in consultation with Ministry of